

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

S E C R E T PARIS 04697

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, XF, EG, FR
SUBJ: SADAT VISIT TO PARIS

1. ON FEBRUARY 15 WE DISCUSSED WITH HENRI SERVANT,
ACTING DIRECTOR OF NORTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
AT THE QUAI, THE FEBRUARY 12-13 VISIT OF PRESIDENT
SADAT TO PARIS. SERVANT SAID THAT THE HEART OF THE
VISIT WAS THE ONE AND THREE QUARTER HOUR TETE-A-TETE
BETWEEN SADAT AND GISCARD. A REPORT OF THIS CONVERSA-
TION HAD NOT YET BEEN GIVEN TO THE QUAI BY THE ELYSEE,
BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT HAD COVERED SADAT'S WASHING-
TON TRIP, NEXT STEPS IN NEGOTIATIONS, THE HORN AND
CHAD.

2. SERVANT SAID THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE TALKS
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BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL AND QUAI SECRETARY
GENERAL SOUTOU (SUBSTITUTING FOR FONMIN DE GUIRINGAUD
WHO WAS IN NEW YORK). KAMEL HAD SAID THAT SADAT WAS
PLEASED BY HIS WASHINGTON VISIT, PARTICULARLY HIS CON-
TACTS WITH THE PRESS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. KAMEL
DESCRIBED SADAT'S WEST EUROPEAN SWING AS INFORMATIONAL
IN NATURE. ACCORDING TO SERVANT, THE EGYPTIANS WERE

NOT ASKING FOR A EUROPEAN DECLARATION OF SUPPORT AT THIS TIME AS THEY WERE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS THIS CREATED WITH ISRAEL. THEY WERE ASKING, HOWEVER, THAT THE EUROPEANS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS TO PERSUADE THEM THAT THERE IS NOW A CHANCE FOR PEACE WHICH MAY BE LOST FOREVER IF THE SADAT INITIATIVE FAILS. THEY WERE BEING ASKED TO TELL THE ISRAELIS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE TO TRY AND PUSH EGYPT TOWARDS A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT; SADAT COULD NEVER ACCEPT THIS AND THE EFFORT WOULD ONLY LEAD TO A BLIND ALLEY.

3. REFERRING TO SADAT'S DECISION TO BREAK OFF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN JERUSALEM, KAMEL SAID THAT HE HAD SENSED AS SOON AS HE ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM THAT THE CLIMATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WAS BAD. THE PRESS WAS EVERYWHERE, PUBLIC STATEMENTS HARD TO AVOID, AND THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION FELT UNDER TREMENDOUS ISRAELI PRESSURE. KAMEL SAID THAT SADAT DECIDED TO BREAK OFF THE TALKS TO AVOID THEIR INEVITABLE FAILURE AND THE ENDING OF HIS INITIATIVE. SERVANT SAID KAMEL GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT EGYPT WOULD BE PREPARED TO ATTEND A RECONVENED POLITICAL COMMITTEE SESSION IN JERUSALEM ONLY AFTER AHERTON HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WOULD THEN PUT IN FINAL FORM. KAMEL HAD
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ALSO ALLUDED TO UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM'S PROPOSAL FOR A UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK AS AN IDEA WHICH MIGHT YET HAVE SOME UTILITY BUT HE HAD NOT ELABORATED.

4. KAMEL TOLD THE FRENCH THAT EGYPT WAS NOT MUCH BOTHERED BY THE ALGIERS STEADFAST MEETING. THEY VIEWED IT AS AN ALGERIAN MOVE TO GET SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION ON THE WESTERN SAHARA AND HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT ASAD WAS NOT VERY COMFORTABLE WITH THE COMPANY THERE. SAUDI ARABIA WAS CONTINUING QUIETLY TO SUPPORT EGYPT BUT WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE DIVIDED STATE OF THE ARAB WORLD. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM SOUTOU, KAMEL HAD SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE JORDAN'S JOINING NEGOTIATIONS AFTER AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WOULD NECESSARILY MEAN ANY SOFTENING OF SYRIAN ATTITUDES. IF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES HAS ENOUGH SUBSTANCE, JORDAN CAN PARTICIPATE WITHOUT EXPLICIT SYRIAN APPROVAL.
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